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PERF Daily Clips - July 9, 2019

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CYBERCRIME

New York Times: A city paid a hefty ransom to hackers. But its pains are far from over.

More than 100 years' worth of Lake City, Fla., municipal records, from ordinances to meeting minutes to resolutions and City Council agendas, have been locked in cyberspace for nearly a month, hijacked by unidentified hackers who encrypted the city's computer systems and demanded more than $460,000 in ransom.

Lake City's troubles are hardly unique. In the past month alone, at least three Florida cities have been victims of ransomware attacks, after intrusions on larger cities such as Atlanta, Dallas and Baltimore.

What sets the latest cyberattacks apart is the stunning size of their ransom demands. Riviera Beach, Fla., last month agreed to pay more than $600,000, several times what was asked of Baltimore, which did not have insurance and did not pay. The Village of Key Biscayne, near Miami, has not publicly disclosed whether it plans to pay the perpetrators of a recent ransomware attack. Earlier this year Jackson County, Ga., paid $400,000.

Atlanta's mayor testified last week to Congress that an attack last year, when the city refused to pay $51,000 in extortion demands, has so far cost the city $7.2 million.

As cities rush to protect their data - and others scramble to recover it - experts on cybersecurity say the growing number of attacks and escalating ransom demands suggest that cyberattackers have found a ripe target: small governments with weak computer protections and strong insurance policies. The payments keep coming even as the FBI says they might be incentivizing more attacks.

TECHNOLOGY

Washington Post: FBI, ICE find state driver's license photos are a gold mine for facial-recognition searches

Agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Immigration and Customs Enforcement have turned state driver's license databases into a facial-recognition gold mine, scanning through millions of Americans' photos without their knowledge or consent, newly released documents show.

Thousands of facial-recognition requests, internal documents and emails over the past five years, obtained through public-records requests by Georgetown Law researchers and provided to The Washington Post, reveal that federal investigators have turned state departments of motor vehicles databases into the bedrock of an unprecedented surveillance infrastructure.

Police have long had access to fingerprints, DNA and other "biometric data" taken from criminal suspects. But the DMV records contain the photos of a vast majority of a state's residents, most of whom have never been charged with a crime.

Neither Congress nor state legislatures have authorized the development of such a system, and growing numbers of Democratic and Republican lawmakers are criticizing the technology as a dangerous, pervasive and error-prone surveillance tool.

"Law enforcement's access of state databases," particularly DMV databases, is "often done in the shadows with no consent," House Oversight Committee Chairman Elijah E. Cummings (D-Md.) said in a statement to The Post.

Rep. Jim Jordan (Ohio), the House Oversight Committee's ranking Republican, seemed particularly incensed at the use of driver's license photos in federal facial-recognition searches without the approval of state legislators or individual license holders.

"They've just given access to that to the FBI," he said. "No individual signed off on that when they renewed their driver's license, got their driver's licenses. They didn't sign any waiver saying, 'Oh, it's okay to turn my information, my photo, over to the FBI.' No elected officials voted for that to happen."

GUN REGULATIONS

Roanoke (VA) Times: Lawmakers to return to Richmond for special session on guns

Lawmakers are returning to Richmond on Tuesday for a special session called by Gov. Ralph Northam to take up gun-related measures in the wake of a shooting in Virginia Beach a month ago.

Republicans, who command a slim majority in the House of Delegates and Senate, are aiming to fend off several gun control proposals backed by Northam, a Democrat, who is asking for

action after a gunman opened fire at a municipal building, killing 12 people, on May 31.

Virginia has a strong gun culture - the National Rifle Association has its headquarters in Fairfax County - and some of the nation's most lenient firearms laws. But with a surge in state legislatures passing gun control measures in recent years, Northam spotted an opportunity to put a spotlight on the issue.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: As Milwaukee seeks solutions for reckless driving, some blame low police budget while others seek alternatives to police

Over the past year, driving fatalities have dominated headlines.

The deaths highlighted an issue that the city - and state - has struggled with for years: reckless driving.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 19,540 crashes, 8,250 injuries and 186 deaths in Wisconsin were attributed to speeding in 2016 and more than 5,000 crashes were attributed to drunk driving the year before.

In 2016, former Gov. Scott Walker signed Senate Bill 455, which turned a fourth drunken driving offense into a felony, punishable by up to six years in prison.

Recently, saturation patrols from the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office and Milwaukee Police Department were dispatched to halt the problem.

But pursuing reckless drivers has become controversial.

MAJOR EVENTS

Portland Oregonian: Portland's police chief calls for anti-mask law, different approach for violent protesters

Police Chief Danielle Outlaw said the city, police and community need "a better way" to address protest groups bent on brawling on Portland streets and called for laws that would bar masks worn by demonstrators, allow police to fully videotape protests and give authorities greater control of protests by groups with a history of violence.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Help Not Handcuffs, a new Waukesha County program, strives to help people with substance abuse issues

To help people struggling with substance abuse, the City of Delafield Police Department has partnered with the Addiction Resource Council in Waukesha to create Help Not Handcuffs.

The program is a chance at recovery without fear of arrest by law enforcement, according to Police Chief Erik Kehl. If someone goes to the police department seeking help, they will be connected with treatment programs and counselors.

"The Addiction Resource Council will do most of the legwork," Kehl said. "We are just the point of contact. If there is somebody who wants to get treatment, doesn't know how to (or) doesn't know how to get insurance to pay for it, they come to us, but we turn them over to Addiction Resource."

ARC will then look at the most cost-effective avenue for people looking for treatment.

RECRUITING

Carroll County (MD) Times: Commissioners, Sheriff's Office, community college to offer pathway to associate's degree for cadets

A new program through the Carroll County Sheriff's Office will allow police academy recruits to obtain an associate's degree from Carroll Community College while gaining professional experience - at no cost to the cadet.

The Carroll County commissioners unanimously voted at their most recent meeting to support the creation of policy to start a law enforcement cohort program. The program will allow cadets of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office Police Entry Level Training (PELT) Academy to earn an associate's degree from Carroll Community College as they undergo academy training. Individuals who choose to pursue the Associate of Applied Science degree in law enforcement will gain 45 college credits for completing PELT and take additional classes to earn the final 16 credits required for the degree, according to college President James Ball.

RECRUITING

WBAL Baltimore: Baltimore police turn to new digital campaign to help fill ranks

The Baltimore Police Department rolled out a recruitment strategy Monday in an effort to fill the ranks and keep officers from leaving the force.

The $200,000, six-month digital campaign will include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. How many officers are needed is a moving target that's currently at several hundred, but not as many officers will be needed in the future when the city force catches up with technology.

The BPD is inviting a new generation of men and women to "Be part of the greatest comeback story in America." Recruitment videos will be available on social media.

Arizona Republic: Tempe police hope Starbucks' behavior was 'isolated incident;' Starbucks executive apologizes

Tempe Police Department hopes a situation where a Starbucks barista asked officers to leave a store on Fourth of July was "an isolated incident," according to a statement.

In a statement tweeted Saturday, Tempe Police Department said they hope this was simply an isolated incident between one community member and a single employee, instead of reflecting on Starbucks as a whole.

A Starbucks executive vice president, Rossann Williams, issued an apology to the police department Saturday evening after speaking with Tempe Police Chief Sylvia Moir.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Guardian: Police use of child spies in criminal gangs is lawful, high court rules

Police recruitment and use of child spies to penetrate "county lines" drug gangs and other criminal or terrorist organisations is lawful, the high court has ruled.

Rejecting calls for extra safeguards when handling underage informants, Mr Justice Supperstone acknowledged they were more vulnerable than adults but dismissed claims that their human rights were being breached.

The case was brought by the charity Just For Kids Law which argued that regulations governing recruiting and deploying children as covert human intelligence sources (CHIS) do not contain "adequate safeguards".

POLICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Oklahoma City Oklahoman: Wade Gourley named Oklahoma City police chief

Wade Gourley was named Oklahoma City police chief on Monday, succeeding Bill Citty, who retired in May after 15 years leading the department.

Gourley, 51, has been an Oklahoma City police officer for 30 years and was promoted from deputy chief by City Manager Craig Freeman.

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